

Wildlife Viewing

Whether you are new to Alaska or a sourdough everyone loves watching wildlife and viewing nature. Alaska has bragging rights to three times the coastline of the entire lower 48 put together, the tallest mountains, longest rivers, and largest forests in the world. Alaska has several distinct environments from the marine and rainy forests in the southeast to the tundra of the North Slope. With 586,000 square miles of wilderness to explore Alaska offers world class opportunities in wildlife viewing. You can take advantage of some of best wildlife viewing Alaska has to offer during day trips here in the interior. Some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities can be discovered at Denali National Park, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, Delta Junction State Bison Range and along the Denali Highway. Within a few miles of Ft. Wainwright you can enjoy viewing wildlife at the Chena River Recreation Area, Pinnell and White Mountain Recreation Areas, and Creamer's Field Waterfowl Refuge in Fairbanks.

You can increase your chances of viewing wildlife if you familiarize yourself with the animal you hope to see. Study the animals feeding habits and preferred environment. If you follow general wildlife viewing practices you will be rewarded with more successful outings.

- Dawn and dusk are the best times to view wildlife and when animals are most active.
- Move quietly with frequent stops. Animals that have moved away from you may often reappear when you stop and remain quiet for a period of time.
- Dress for success. Wear natural colors and avoid scented deodorants and lotions.
- Look for signs of wildlife. Look for tracks in the mud or snow, vegetation that has been browsed, and animal scat.
- Use good binoculars and spotting scopes and don't try and get too close to wildlife. Never threaten wildlife by your presence and leave the dog at home.
- Never feed wildlife. It is illegal and often harmful to the animal.

Viewing wildlife and nature is a wonderful family opportunity. If you would like additional information about other outdoor activities on Army lands contact your Army Natural Resource Office. At Fort Wainwright call

353-6490, Fort Richardson 384-3909, and the Donnelly Training Area at 873-1615. You can also visit the Natural Resources Web site at www.usarak.army.mil/conservation.